

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus to which an external device transmitting image data is to be connected, the image forming apparatus comprising:

a detecting unit for detecting whether the external device has been connected to the image forming apparatus, the detecting unit including

a connector configured to receive a plug of a cable attached to the external device, and

an interface controller connected to the connector, the interface controller outputting a first logical level signal when the plug is inserted into the connector and outputting a second logical level signal when the plug is not inserted into the connector;

a printing unit; and

a control unit for controlling, ~~when the detecting unit detects that the external device has been connected to the image forming apparatus~~ in response to the first logical level signal output by the interface controller, the printing unit so as to prepare for image forming according to the image data from the external device.

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a detecting unit for detecting an external device, the external device transmitting image data, the detecting unit including

a connector configured to receive a plug of a cable attached to the external device, and

an interface controller connected to the connector, the interface controller outputting a first logical level signal when the plug is inserted into the connector and outputting a second logical level signal when the plug is not inserted into the connector;

a power supplying unit for supplying power;

a printing unit that is driven by the power from the power supplying unit and forms an image according to the image data from the external device; and

a control unit for controlling the power supplying to the printing unit by the power supplying unit according to a detection result from the detecting unit whether the interface controller outputs the first logical level signal or the second logical level signal.

3. (Cancelled)

The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a connecting unit for connecting the external device to the image forming apparatus, wherein the detecting unit detects whether the external device has been connected to the connecting unit.

4. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the printing unit includes:

an image forming unit for forming the image on a sheet according to the image data; and

a fixing unit for fixing the image on the sheet by applying heat.

5. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the control unit controls an amount of the power supplied to the fixing unit so as to change the power amount according to ~~the detection result from the detecting unit~~ whether the interface controller outputs the first logical level signal or the second logical level signal.

6. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein the control unit controls an amount of the power supplied to the fixing unit so as to keep the fixing unit at a first temperature that is lower than a second temperature for fixing the image on the sheet when the ~~external device has not been detected~~ interface controller outputs the second logical level signal, and at the second temperature when the ~~external device has been detected~~ interface controller outputs the first logical level signal.

7. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the control unit controls the power supplying to the printing unit when the ~~detecting unit has detected the external device~~ interface controller outputs the first logical level signal.

8. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus to which an external device transmitting image data is to be connected, the image forming apparatus comprising:

~~a connector for connecting the external device to the image forming apparatus;~~

a detecting unit for detecting whether the external device has been connected to the connector, the detecting unit including

a connector configured to receive a plug of a cable attached to the external device, and

an interface controller connected to the connector, the interface controller outputting a first logical level signal when the plug is inserted into the connector;

an image forming unit for forming an image on a sheet according to the image data that has been transmitted from the external device;

a fixing unit for fixing the image on the sheet by applying heat, wherein the fixing unit is an electric heater; and

a control unit for controlling power supplying to the fixing unit according to ~~a detection result from the detecting unit~~ whether the interface controller outputs the first logical level signal or the second logical level signal.

9. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the external device is a camera for taking a picture and generating the image data, the external device including a connecting unit that is to be connected to the connector.

10. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 8, further comprising a fee-charging unit for charging a user a fee for forming an image.

11. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus to which an external device transmitting image data is to be connected comprising:

a fixing unit for fixing an image that has been formed on a sheet by applying heat;

a switching unit for putting the fixing unit into a fixing mode, in which the fixing unit is kept at a first temperature for fixing the image on the sheet, and a standby mode, in which the fixing unit stands by and a temperature of the fixing unit is lower than the first temperature;

~~a connector for connecting the external device to the image forming apparatus;~~

an external device detecting unit for detecting whether the external device has been connected to the image forming apparatus via the connector, the external device detecting unit including

a connector configured to receive a plug of a cable attached to the external device, and

an interface controller connected to the connector, the interface controller outputting a first logical level signal when the plug is inserted into the connector;
and

a control unit for controlling the switching unit so as to switch the fixing unit from the standby mode to the fixing mode when the ~~external device detecting unit detects that the external device has been connected to the image forming apparatus~~ the interface controller outputs the first logical level signal.

12. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the switching unit interrupts a current to the fixing unit in the standby mode.

13. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the switching unit keeps the fixing unit at a second temperature, which is lower than the first temperature, in the standby mode.

14. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising a judging unit for judging whether an image forming operation has been completed, wherein the control unit controls the switching unit so as to switch the fixing unit from the fixing mode to the standby mode when the ~~external device detecting unit detects that the external device has been separated from the connector~~ the interface controller outputs the second logical level signal and when the judging unit judges that the image forming operation has been completed.

15. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a power supplying unit for generating power that is to be supplied to an external device transmitting image data;
an interface for connecting the external device to the image forming apparatus, wherein the image data from the external device is received via the interface and the power from the power supplying unit is supplied to the external device via the interface;
a judging unit for judging whether a charge is to be collected;
a printing unit;
a control unit for controlling power supplying by the power supplying unit and image forming by the printing unit according to a judging result from the judging unit, wherein the control unit has the printing unit form an image according to the image data from the external device that has been received via the interface; and
a charge collecting unit for collecting a charge for the image forming and a charge for an amount of the power that has been supplied to the external device

16. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 15, wherein the control unit has the printing unit form the image and has the power supplying unit supply the power when the judging unit judges that the charge is to be collected.

17. (Cancelled)

The image forming apparatus according to Claim 16, further comprising a charge collecting unit for collecting a charge for the image forming and a charge for an amount of the power that has been supplied to the external device.

18. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 15, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the charge collecting unit includes a handling unit into which money is input, the handling unit accumulating the input money, wherein the judging unit judges that the charge is to be collected when money has been input into the handling unit.

19. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to Claim 18, wherein the handling unit includes first and second handling units, and the control unit permits the image forming when money has been input into the first handling unit and permits the power supplying when money has been input into the second handling unit.

20. (Currently Amended) A power supply apparatus that supplies power to an external device that transmits image data comprising:

a power supplying unit for generating the power that is to be supplied to the external device;

a connector for connecting the external device to the power supply apparatus, wherein the image data from the external device is received via the connector and the power from the power supplying unit is supplied to the external device via the connector;

a printing unit for forming an image according to the image data from the external device that has been received via the connector; and

a charge collecting unit for collecting a charge for an amount of the power that has been supplied to the external device.

21. (Original) A method of supplying power for a power supply apparatus to which an external device is to be connected, the power supply apparatus including a printing unit for receiving image data from the external device and forming an image, the power supply apparatus supplying power to the external device, the power supplying method comprising:

a connection detecting step for detecting whether the external device has been connected to the power supply apparatus;

a judging step for judging one of that the power is to be supplied to the external device which has been connected to the power supply apparatus and that the image is to be formed according to the image data from the external device;

a power supplying step for supplying the power to the external device when the judging step has judged that the power is to be supplied to the external device;

an image forming step where the printing unit forms the image when the judging step has judged that the image is to be formed; and

a charge collecting step for collecting a charge for an amount of the power that has been supplied by the power supply apparatus and a charge for image forming by the printing unit.

22. (Original) The power supplying method according to Claim 21, wherein it is judged that money has been put for one of power supplying and image forming at the judging step.